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Raising a toast to the Drinkle

The owners of the Drinkle Building are marking the downtown property's centennial by building a better block PAGE 2

U.S. inches toward strike

President Barack Obama's call for use of force on Syrian soil gets the OK from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee PAGE 4

NOT TOO SEXY FOR THE STAGE

YOU'LL SWOON, YOU'LL LAUGH AT THIS MUSICAL THAT BRINGS FIFTY SHADES OF GREY'S INNER GODDESS TO LIFE PAGE 10

Province's foster-care system under scrutiny after child's slaying

'Serious concerns.'
New supervision plan for child suspect in death of Lee Bonneau, 6, raising questions about government's management, facilities

MARCO VIGLIOTTI
Metro in Regina

The Saskatchewan government is facing further questions about its foster-care system, while it has no plan to build a locked facility for troubled youths following the recent slaying of a six-year-old, allegedly at the hands of another child.

"We have a range of facilities that ensure the safety of the child," Andrea Brittin, assistant deputy minister of social services, said on Wednesday of the province's plan to house the child suspect at an "out-of-home" facility.

"Some of the facilities in Saskatchewan use intensive staffing models to ensure the children are safe and are receiving the supervision they need."

While declining to comment directly on the killing of Lee Bonneau last month at southeast Saskatchewan's Kahkewistahaw First Nation, the opposition New Democrats said they have "serious concerns" about the provincial government's foster-care system — particularly after the deaths of several children under the watch of family services in recent years.

"This is the fifth foster-child death — categorized as suspicious or criminal — in the past four years (in Saskatchewan)," NDP spokeswoman Erin Morrison told Metro of the death of Bonneau, a ward of the Ministry of Social Services, on Aug. 21 at the reserve near Broadview.

"There are more questions than answers right now."

RCMP have confirmed that the boy who allegedly killed Bonneau with an unspecified weapon is under 12 — the minimum age to face the judicial system under the federal Youth Criminal Justice Act.

The suspect is being held at an unsecured facility equipped with 24-hour supervision, according to the province.

While Alberta and Ontario have locked facilities for such youths, Saskatchewan does not.

"The facilities we have here in the province are very good," Brittin said, noting that if it's determined that the suspect in Bonneau's killing cannot be "safely and securely managed," the ministry might look to other provinces for help.

This past spring, the NDP criticized the province for housing toddlers and infants under its care at Dale's House — a Regina group home for troubled teenagers.

The government described that as a temporary measure and said the younger children had been kept in an area separate from the teens.

HOME IS WHERE THE MONEY IS

A real-estate sign is seen in front of a house on Spadina Crescent East on Wednesday. Jason Yochim, executive officer of the Saskatoon Region Association of Realtors, inset, says housing sales are expected to top $1 billion by the end of the summer and $2 billion by the end of the year. Story, page 2.

MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Post-racial world?

Not for two Leon's employees in Halifax, who were fired for 'lynching' a black statue PAGE 6

You say spaghetti, I say zucchini

Make this simple pasta primavera with zucchini noodles and pine nut parma your low-carb staple PAGE 13

New ownership

Sale of Saskatoon Blades approved by WHL

The Western Hockey League's oldest team has a new owner.

On Wednesday, the WHL's board of governors unanimously approved a sale of the Saskatoon Blades from Jack Brodsky, his brother Bob and sister Debbie to Edmonton businessman Mike Priestner and Priestner Sports Corp.

Ron Robison, WHL commissioner, said he's confident that the Blades' new owner will improve the Blue and White. But he added that it's difficult to see the Brodskys, who have contributed much to the league, move on.

"I've done a number of these transactions, but I must admit this has been a very emotional time," Robison said on Wednesday.

"Jack Brodsky has been a contributor to our league in so many ways," he added, noting his success in bringing the 2010 World Junior Hockey Championship and this past spring's Memorial Cup national junior championship tournament to Saskatoon.

"It's certainly exciting on one hand to be inviting the new owner into the league, but it's also sad to see someone who has made such a major contribution leaving at this stage as well."

Saskatoon Mayor Don Atchison, a former Blades player, said he wishes the Brodskys the best.

"I want to thank the Brodsky family for all of the years of dedication to the community," said Atchison.

MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Dave Struch, head coach of the Saskatoon Blades. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

City's home sales predicted to top $2 billion this year

Healthy market. Higher wages, low unemployment and growing population are factors, CMHC says

Saskatoon is on pace to achieve its second straight year with home sales hitting the $1-billion mark, and experts say the transactions point to a healthy market.

"It's certainly one of the leaders in growth," Bill Madder, CEO of the Association of Saskatchewan Realtors, said on Wednesday of Saskatoon.

Housing sales in Saskatoon, in fact, are expected to reach the $1-billion mark even by the end of the summer. Realtors predict a climb to $2 billion by the end of 2013.

Goodson Mwale, senior market analyst for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp., explained that the market is reflective of the province's economy. "There's strong wage growth, strong employment growth and strong migratory flows of people coming to the province, and all of these are supporting indicators or variables for housing demand," Mwale said.

He noted that while the number of houses sold has dropped in comparison with 2012, the average home selling price is on the rise.

"Even though we're seeing a reduced number of sales compared to last year, what has actually led to the increase in terms of sales volume is price composition," Mwale said.

"We are seeing a number of homes selling in higher price ranges, and that's affecting the average."

Jason Yochim, executive officer with the Saskatoon Region Association of Realtors, said the balance in the market "is always good" for buyers. "If you had it the other way," he said, "where it's a seller's market, pricing would be climbing at a much faster rate and making it a little hard for those homeowners on the cusp to be able to afford a home." MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Jason Yochim, executive officer with the Saskatoon Region Association of Realtors, says the market's balance is good for purchasers. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Drinkle Building recognizes its heritage

Dave Denny, owner of the Drinkle Building, stands outside the multi-storey structure on Wednesday. JACOB MORGAN/METRO

The owners of the Drinkle Building in downtown Saskatoon are celebrating the structure's 100th birthday by recognizing its heritage and its role in improving the area for the community.

Dave Denny and his wife Genevieve are the owners of the property. They're organizing the Drinklefest Better Block Party this Sunday, featuring live music, an innovative urban planning project and a special family reunion.

"The Drinkle family — John Clarence Drinkle is the founder of the building — moved away to B.C. years ago," explained Denny.

"They're having a family reunion and all flying in to Saskatoon for this party."

John Clarence Drinkle's 11-year-old great, great granddaughter will blow out the candles on a cake and Mayor Don Atchison will be there to say a few words.

Another aspect of the event involves the quality of life in the district.

Inspired by the Better Block initiative, a grassroots movement that originated in Dallas, the organizers will temporarily change the face of the site between 21st and 22nd streets along 3rd Avenue South.

In addition to brightly painted bicycle lanes, the city has given permission to set up outdoor cafes for two weeks "to enliven the downtown," Denny said.

Jason Roberts, a founder of Better Block, is coming from Dallas to make a presentation at Third Avenue United Church.

The Texas resident has seen cities all over the world take this idea and run with it.

"It's this community craving to have more social interactions, and that's been the universal thread from Melbourne to Wichita, Kansas," Roberts explained.

"How can we create an environment that facilitates more meaningful social interactions," he added, "and how can we get these folks involved in the process of change that's needed to make those interactions easier?"

JACOB MORGAN/METRO

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Water plant's woes not a drop in the bucket: Automation's soaked

Calgary flood aftermath.
Treated water may be substandard because important facility is in 'manual mode'

ROBSON FLETCHER
Metro in Calgary

Calgary's largest wastewater treatment facility is operating in "manual mode" due to damage from … water.

Because of the damage from June's flood, there's a "very high risk" that the plant will send treated water to the Bow River that doesn't meet provincial standards, a city report says.

"We've basically stepped back 30 years in time," said Kevin Colbran, manager of the Bonnybrook Wastewater Treatment Plant.

"We have the brain of our control system, but all of the field devices and cabling that sent the information to that brain were toasted in the flood."

As a result, employees have to visually monitor things such as water levels and dissolved oxygen levels in the plant's tanks and then manually turn valves to adjust flow levels and keep the treatment processes in order.

"It's more challenging," Colbran said.

"These plants are pretty complex now. They're designed with automation in mind, not manual operation."

It also takes a lot longer, he added, since employees have to travel from one part of the 50-acre site to another to make observations, then make adjustments and then double-check.

Bonnybrook operations leader Robert Kotch stands above one of the facility's clarifiers, which staff must now monitor and adjust manually after June floodwaters damaged automation systems. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Arrest warrants out for B.C. landlord

Downtown Eastside landlord George Wolsey is officially a wanted man after refusing to pay thousands in damages to former tenants of his dilapidated buildings.

The B.C. provincial court ordered 10 warrants for Wolsey's arrest on Tuesday after he repeatedly failed to show up in court to address his $18,163.75 debt to 10 former residents of the Wonder and Palace hotels, the Pivot Legal Society announced at a news conference Wednesday.

It's a paltry sum for a man who sold the two cockroach- and bedbug-infested single-room-occupancy hotels in Vancouver's poorest neighbourhood for about $4 million in 2012.

Court action happened after the city issued an injunction forcing him to repair the buildings, which didn't have functional fire escapes.

Quoted

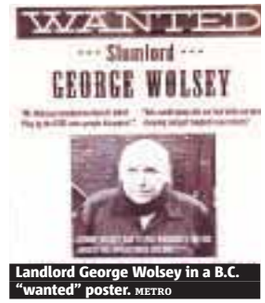
"He's a tyrant, period."

Stephen Freeman, who says he was evicted by landlord George Wolsey.

"He's a heartless S.O.B.," former resident Stephen Freeman told reporters, adding Wolsey evicted him from his mouse-ridden room for buying methadone from a different pharmacist.

Wolsey, a Langley resident who had his pharmacist licence stripped in 2004 for forcing his tenants to fill their prescriptions through him, has seven days to turn himself in or Surrey sheriff services will begin searching for him.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO IN VANCOUVER



Landlord George Wolsey in a B.C. "wanted" poster. METRO

Tory tome. Hockey-mad PM pens a hockey book

Stephen Harper can soon add another line to his resumé — published author.

The prime minister's book on the history of hockey is set to hit store shelves Nov. 5.

A Great Game: The Forgotten Leafs and the Rise of Professional Hockey looks at the early years of the game.

It will also feature photos of famous arenas and the game's earliest star players.

"Drawing on extensive archival records and illustrations, histories of the sport, and newspaper files, A Great Game delves into the fascinating early years of ice hockey," publisher Simon and Schuster Canada said Wednesday.

"It tells of the hockey heroes and hard-boiled businessmen who built the game, and the rise and fall of legendary teams pursuing the Stanley Cup."

Harper has spent years preparing the book.

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U.S. Senate panel votes for use of force in Syria

10-7 in favour. President's push for military strike after alleged chemical-weapons attack gains steam in Congress

U.S. President Barack Obama's request for speedy congressional backing of a military strike in Syria advanced in the Senate on Wednesday, hours after Obama left open the possibility that he would order retaliation for a deadly chemical weapons attack even if Congress withheld its approval.

A resolution backing the use of force against President Bashar Assad's government cleared the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in a 10-7 vote after it was stiffened at the last minute to include a pledge of support for "decisive changes to the present military balance of power" in Syria's civil war. It would rule out U.S. combat operations on the ground.

The measure is expected to reach the Senate floor next week, although the timetable for a vote is uncertain.

The support seen in the Senate will be harder to find in the Republican-controlled House of Representatives, which is also reviewing Obama's request, though its timetable is even less certain.

The Obama administration blames a chemical-weapons attack that took place on Aug. 21 on Assad's government and says more than 1,400 civilians died, including at least 400 children. Other casualty estimates are lower, and the Syrian government denies responsibility, contending rebels fighting to topple Assad were to blame.

The Senate panel's vote marked the first formal response in Congress, four days after Obama unexpectedly put off an anticipated cruise-missile strike against Syria and instead asked lawmakers to unite behind such a plan. Obama was in Sweden after a day of diplomacy when the vote occurred. White House press secretary Jay Carney praised the Senate committee for backing Obama's call for a strike, saying the measure would uphold U.S. national security interests.

At a news conference earlier, Obama said, "I always reserve the right and responsibility to act on behalf of America's national security." In a challenge to lawmakers back home, he said Congress' credibility was on the line, not his own, despite saying a year ago that the use of chemical weapons would cross a "red line." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Against unilateralism

Putin might support UN call for strike

Russian President Vladimir Putin has warned the West against taking one-sided action in Syria but said Russia "doesn't exclude" supporting a UN resolution on punitive military strikes if it is proved that Syria used poison gas on its own people.

In an interview Tuesday with The Associated Press, Putin expressed hope that he and Obama would have serious discussions about Syria and other issues at the G-20 summit in St. Petersburg, Russia, this week. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Refugees from Syria gather at the Turkish Cilvegozu gate border on Wednesday. GREGORIO BORGIA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Held women captive. Ohio prison orders review after Ariel Castro hangs himself

The man who kidnapped three young women and repeatedly raped them in his Ohio home for nearly a decade hanged himself in his cell, prison officials said on Wednesday.

Ariel Castro, 53, was sentenced last month to life in prison plus 1,000 years after his guilty plea in one of the most sensational criminal cases in recent U.S. history.

The public was startled by his apparent double life, with his reputation as a good-natured musician who even attended a vigil for one of the missing women. Castro was found on Tuesday night, said JoEllen Smith, Department of Rehabilitation and Correction spokeswoman.

Prison medical staff performed CPR before he was transported to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

He had used a bedsheet. Castro had been in protective custody because of the notoriety of his case, meaning he was checked every 30 minutes, but he was not on suicide watch, Smith said.

While in jail before his conviction, Castro was taken off suicide watch in June after authorities determined he was not a risk. An autopsy showed the death was a suicide.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio asked the prison system to conduct a full investigation. State Prison Director Gary Mohr ordered a review of Castro's medical and mental-health treatment and the circumstances surrounding his suicide. He said the state police are also investigating. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This file photo shows Ariel Castro in the courtroom during the sentencing phase. TONY DEJAK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Route 4A in Ciudad Juárez

50% of bus drivers skip work after deadly shootings

Half of the drivers who work a bus route on which two colleagues were shot to death last week, possibly by a woman seeking revenge for purported sexual abuse of female passengers, didn't show up for their jobs on Tuesday.

Only 10 of the 20 drivers assigned to the 4A bus route in this border city took the wheel, "because they are afraid," a dispatcher said.

"There were a lot fewer passengers, too," said the dispatcher, who refused to be quoted by name out of fear of being targeted. "Everyone is afraid something could happen," he added.

Officials said plain-clothes police officers were aboard some buses and conducting weapons searches to prevent further killings.

Mexican prosecutors released a police sketch of a female suspect drawn from the testimony of at least 20 witnesses. It shows a woman wearing a sun visor over hair pulled back on her head. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It don't matter if you're black or white. N-word is offensive regardless of who says it: Court

The lawyer for a black U.S. woman whose claim against a black boss's N-word rant brought a $280,000 jury award says she hopes the case teaches society something.

"It's the most offensive word in the English language," attorney Marjorie M. Sharpe said Tuesday.

A jury sided with 38-year-old Brandi Johnson against the boss, Rob Carmona, in a case that explored a word that is a degrading slur when spoken by whites but at times is used affectionately among blacks, even in the workplace.

Johnson said she hopes the word now "won't be tolerated no matter what your race is."

Carmona, a 61-year-old black man of Puerto Rican descent, had testified that he was dispensing tough love. "I come from a different time," he said in court Tuesday.

He had tried to defend his use of the word, saying it had "multiple contexts" in the black and Latino communities, sometimes indicating anger, sometimes love.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The two Koreas

Can't we forget about those nuclear threats and co-host?

South Korea has rejected Pyongyang's suggestion that a North Korean ski resort could be used for events at the 2018 Winter Olympics.

The organizing committee for the games in Pyeongchang says that North Korea's offer is unrealistic.

The committee's statement on Wednesday comes after a North Korean IOC official told the Voice of America broadcaster on Tuesday that it is possible to use the North Korean ski resort for Olympic events when it's completed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Just watch this become the must-have gift of the season

A model touches the screen of a Samsung Galaxy Gear smartwatch in Berlin, Wednesday. MICHAEL SOHN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wearable computing.

Samsung unveils smartwatch in race to beat Apple for this year's most-coveted gadget

Samsung unveiled its highly anticipated digital wristwatch Wednesday, beating Apple to what could become this year's must-have holiday gift item.

So-called smartwatches, which can perform tasks such as displaying email and Twitter messages on a device worn around the wrist, have been around for several years but have failed so far to inspire great interest among ordinary consumers. But with smartphone behemoths Samsung Electronics Co. and Apple Inc. joining the fray — and Google pushing its Google Glass gadget — experts see a chance of wearable computers breaking into the mainstream.

That is, if consumers can get used to talking to their watch, secret-agent style.

"With Gear you're able to make calls and receive calls, without ever taking your phone out of your pocket," Pranav Mistry, a member of Samsung's design team, told reporters at the launch in Berlin ahead of the annual IFA consumer electronics show there.

The Gear uses Google's Android operating system, just like many other devices made by Samsung. The South Korean electronics company said the Gear can act as an extension to a smartphone by discreetly alerting users to incoming messages and calls on its display screen.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Is it really such a big deal?

"Smartwatches haven't had the best track record."

Ramon Llamas, an analyst at research firm IDC, who is skeptical that so-called wearable computers will be a success

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Staffers fired after black statue hanged at Leon's

Halifax. Furniture chain cans two employees, offers diversity training following incident

A Leon's Furniture outlet in Dartmouth, N.S., is apologizing and has provided staff with sensitivity and diversity training after firing two employees over the hanging of a black statue.

The furniture store says it fired the two workers after it conducted an investigation into the incident last month.

Leon's says the bronze statute with black patina was taped and hung to an office window. The statue was altered so its eyes and mouth were whitened.

The company did not return messages seeking comment. The incident was revealed by a former Leon's employee, who has lodged a complaint of racial discrimination with the provincial Human Rights Commission.

According to the CBC, Elsworth Bottomsley told the commission he quit after the statue lynching, which followed several other racially motivated incidents over the previous two years.

Another Leon's employee, who is also alleging racial discrimination by the furniture store, is seeking to introduce the statue lynching as evidence in her case.

THE CANADIAN PRESS WITH FILES FROM METRO HALIFAX

Lobbying for a spot on your social calendar

Bartender Derek Simoes mixes drinks in the newly-redesigned bar during "social hour" at a Sheraton hotel in Seattle. Long treated as dead spaces that hotel guests raced through on the way to the elevator, lobbies are being transformed into places to work, surf the web or meet friends for a drink. Large, traditional hotels are spending billions on renovations to try to mimic the style and financial success of luxury and boutique hotels, which have always drawn free-spending crowds to their lobbies. Walls are being torn down to make lobbies feel less confined, communal tables are popping up and wine lists are being upgraded. ELAINE THOMPSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Halifax

Rain washes out N.S. booze sales

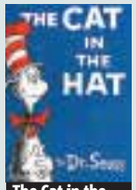
Nova Scotia Liquor is reporting a drop in sales and profits for the first quarter of this fiscal year, a decline it attributes in part to an increase in precipitation. The Crown corporation says it earned $57.1 million in profits during the first three months of fiscal 2013-14, about $1.4 million less than the same period last year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The logo of the Nova Scotia Liquor Commission THE CANADIAN PRESS

Publishing

Dr. Seuss classics go digital this fall



The Cat in the Hat SCREENGRAB

Make that the e-Cat in the Hat. Dozens of Dr. Seuss classics, including The Cat in the Hat and Green Eggs and Ham, will be available this fall for the first time as e-books. Random House Children's Books announced Wednesday that the first 15 will come out Sept. 24, followed by additional publications in October and November.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 95.31¢ (+0.34¢)

Natural gas: $3.68 US (+1¢)
Dow Jones: 14,930.87 (+96.91)

TSX 12,757.81 (+17.31)

OIL $107.23 US (-$1.31)

GOLD $1,390 US (-$22)

Forget Craigslist: Call-in classifieds are still alive and well

Dial-A-Trade host Chris Womack speaks on the phone at the studios of radio station KARV in Russellville, Ark. DANNY JOHNSTON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A man wants to sell a truck, and a woman wants to buy some tomatoes. In much of the world, they might turn to a computer to post ads online or flick through search results. But in some parts of rural America, they're just as likely to pick up the phone and call a local radio station.

Three times every weekday (and twice on Saturdays) people in western Arkansas call in to KARV's Dial-A-Trade, an audio adaptation of the classified ads. For an hour or so, callers explain what they're looking to buy, sell or trade. Then they leave their phone numbers. On live air. For free.

Some people who live here see the program as a public service, but to outsiders, it seems more like a time capsule, a relic from an era before commerce began migrating to the Internet.

Radio want-ad programs are neither new nor unique to Arkansas. For decades, scores of similar shows across the country have filled the airwaves with callers looking to buy and sell everything from apples to ammunition.

Do they take PayPal?

"We still have for sale quite a few of our laying hens.... We're the first driveway on the right."

Dolly SInor, a caller to the Dial-A-Trade radio show in western Arkansas, who gave listeners directions to her home

These shows, with names like Tradio and Swap Shop, broadcast more than free bartering. They showcase a way of life that people in rural America have preserved like canned peaches. KARV's Dial-A-Trade first went on the air in the 1970s and hasn't changed much since then.

The notion that someone would give out directions and a phone number over the air seems preposterous in other parts of the country where people lock their doors and invest in home security systems.

But in Russellville, population 28,000, it works, and for now it seems likely to stay that way. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Participants Needed for Research Interview

Have you received a prescription for an antidepressant to treat something other than depression or anxiety?

We want to talk to individuals who have received a prescription for antidepressants without a diagnosis of depression or anxiety (e.g., **eating disorders, alcohol dependence, migraine headaches, diabetic neuropathy, insomnia, asthma, and others**).

Your involvement will consist of participating in a 1 to 1 ½ hour, audio-recorded individual interview at the University of Saskatchewan.

To find out more about this study, please contact Linda McMullen (Professor of Psychology at the University of Saskatchewan) at **306-966-6687** or linda.mcmullen@usask.ca

This study has been approved by the Behavioural Research Ethics Board of the University of Saskatchewan.

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Forecasting. Is a recession coming? Just ask Google

A new report suggests that analyzing Google search trends could predict a recession more quickly than traditional GDP data, which are available only after a two-month lag.

The report by the C.D. Howe Institute says this kind of real-time data mining could allow policymakers to respond more quickly to weakening economic conditions.

Report author Greg Tkacz says when many people plug the same economic terms into Google, it can provide a clue about changing conditions, such as an impending recession. Following this logic, Tkacz analyzed the usage of the search terms "recession" and "jobs" prior to the 2008-2009 economic downturn.

He found that analyzing search trends could have predicted the recession three months prior to its onset.

However, Tkacz cautions that since Google search trends are only available as far back as 2004, the study should be viewed as illustrative rather than conclusive. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wireless. When will mobile web use overtake desktops?

A few short years ago, back when spotting an iPad in public was still a novelty, some tech prognosticators were boldly predicting that it wouldn't be long before use of the mobile web surpassed Internet usage through computers.

It was a little hard to imagine. It hasn't happened in Canada yet — it's still not even close — but it no longer seems that implausible.

Facebook recently announced that its users now connect to the social network more on phones and tablets than they do with desktop and laptop computers.

BBC News also reported this summer that for the first time ever, it saw mobile traffic exceed computer traffic for some of its news coverage.

Experts' best guesses suggest it'll still take years before mobile is fully neck and neck with computer usage when it comes to overall Internet consumption, particularly in North America, but given how quickly tablets and smartphones have been adopted, it could happen sooner. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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NOT ALL TEACHERS ARE MADE EQUAL

HE SAYS
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

Teachers, am I right?

In honour of the beginning of the school year, this was a test.

Did you respond to the mere mention of the profession with rage, fed up with union-protected whiners who don't realize how good they've got it, what with their summer break, free apples by the deskload and brightly coloured chalk?

Or did your eyes tear up at the very thought of these educational exemplars, the second most noble profession (just behind humour columnist), preparing the Leaders of Tomorrow despite the slings and spitballs of the Grocery Store Cashiers of Tomorrow?

Middle ground often seems like a no-man's land when it comes to the battle between pro- and anti-teacher camps.

People love labels. All of us do. It's so much easier than thinking. People can be racist. Some people are classist. Others are regionalist, deciding that 5.5 million people in the Greater Toronto Area are latte-quaffing liberals or that four million Albertans are cow-romancing conservatives — all mayoral election results to the contrary.

And some people are, uh, professionist. While teacher-bashing is more popular at the moment — teacher-praising seems reserved these days for teachers and their relatives — I've rarely heard an attempt at a balanced opinion. Educators are either heroes or heels, full stop.

Here's a hypothetical conversation:

"Must be nice to be done at three o'clock and get the whole summer off," says a teacher hater.

"Teaching is the most important profession we have, and in a just society they'd be paid as much as doctors," says a teacher lover.

"There are many excellent teachers who are making a real difference, yet there are some awful teachers who are protected too readily by their peers," says a third person, joining in.

"Kaboom!" go the heads of the other two, like characters in a violent video game being played in the back of a classroom as we speak.

Here's the thing: I remember a theatre-arts teacher who gave us a taste of Macbeth and A Raisin in the Sun in a way that made us crave more, and I remember a French teacher who showed us Weekend at Bernie's. In English. Without subtitles.

The teaching profession is a mixed bag, just like every other profession except for astronauts and air-traffic controllers (one hopes). I choose to give individual teachers the benefit of the doubt until given reason not to.

After all, these are people who deal with classes packed tighter than a New York sidewalk, and often face junior high students without a chair and whip. And how does one deal with issues like bullying and burgeoning sexuality when, as I recall, all it takes to create chaos in a classroom is one stray bumblebee?

Last time I checked, teachers are people. Sorry to be so controversial.

ZOOM

Fish killed in polluted Chinese river

GETTY IMAGES

Factory blamed for ammonia leak

This was the scene on a 40-kilometre stretch of the Fuhe River in China after a chemical spill killed about 100,000 kilograms of fish, mainly chub, carp and snakehead. High levels of ammonia leaked into the river from a factory, and the owner has been ordered to stop operating.

The government claims the river is now cleared. METRO

Other animal tragedies

- 16,000 pigs were found floating in a Shanghai river this year.
- Also this year, 1,000 dead ducks were seen in the rivers of Sichuan province.
- Similar to now, more than 40,000 kilograms of fish were killed after the 2012 spill of toxic chemical cadmium in a Guangxi river.

Fishermen's losses

$11,400

The loss per day that local fishermen will suffer, which could have a devastating effect on the area's economy.

No comment from science company

The Hubei province environmental protection department, notified of the piles of dead fish on Monday, pointed the finger at local company Hubei Shuanghuan Science and Technology Stock Co. The company said it wasn't going to immediately comment.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clickbait

HANNAH ZITNER
hannah.zitner@metronews.ca

Darwin the Ikea monkey made his first public appearance Dec. 9, 2012.
BRONWYN PAGE/THE CANADIAN PRESS/HANDOUT

If you've ever tried to find an old tweet, you know that Twitter's search function is of lamentable quality — at best. Topsy, the social-media-analytic king, has now fixed that wee problem and indexed every tweet ever sent. Ever. That's about 425 billion pieces of content, according to the New York Times. So what can you do with this while companies figure how to get rich from it? Have fun playing a spirited game of first tweets.

Ikea monkey
Where did the first Ikea monkey tweet come from?

Bieber
What was his first tweet?

Trudeau and pot
Find out just how far back the Trudeau pot-smoking story surfaced.

Twitter

@metropicks asked: Dr. Seuss books are coming out in e-editions. Do kids miss out on anything by using an e-reader?

@Canucklehead_ca: Good luck with that e-reader at a book signing! (See also: in direct sunlight.)

@BrianBlatnicki: how do you borrow with e-readers?

@canadiansteph: how can you tell which books are more loved then others? My son's most loved book is torn and bent, and loved:)

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU: Send us your comments: saskatoonletters@metronews.ca

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2008	HYUNDAI **ACCENT**	GL	2DR	SILVER	NB5691A	~~$10,388~~	$7,999	$2,389	$109
2006	CHEVROLET **MALIBU**	LT	4DR	BROWN	NB5749A	~~$9,388~~	$7,999	$1,389	$102
2009	FORD **FOCUS**	SE	4DR	GREY	N33766A	~~$10,388~~	$9,888	$500	$89
2008	TOYOTA **YARIS**	LE	5DR	GREY	N33667A	~~$12,388~~	$10,999	$1,389	$106
2009	NISSAN **SENTRA**		4DR	WHITE	N33899A	~~$14,388~~	$12,999	$1,389	$123
2009	NISSAN **ALTIMA**	S	4DR	GREY	B5791	~~$15,388~~	$13,999	$1,389	$129
2009	GMC **CANYON**	SLE	RWD	BEIGE	NB5763B	~~$15,388~~	$13,999	$1,389	$131
2009	HONDA **CIVIC**	DX	4DR	SILVER	B5790	~~$16,388~~	$14,999	$1,389	$139
2010	MAZDA **3**	GX	4DR	GREY	B5783	~~$18,388~~	$16,999	$1,389	$165
2012	HYUNDAI **ELANTRA**	GL	4DR	GREY	B5799	~~$18,388~~	$16,999	$1,389	$112
2007	MAZDA **CX7**	GS	AWD	BLACK	B5777	~~$18,388~~	$16,999	$1,389	$157
2010	DODGE **GRAND CARAVAN**	SE	FWD	WHITE	B5784	~~$18,388~~	$16,999	$1,389	$165
2009	HYUNDAI **SANTA FE**	LTD	AWD	BLUE	N33812A	~~$20,388~~	$18,999	$1,389	$145
2011	CHEVROLET **TRAVERSE**	LS	FWD	SILVER	N33868A	~~$20,388~~	$18,999	$1,389	$145
2012	DODGE **GRAND CARAVAN**	SXT	FWD	SILVER	B5778	~~$20,388~~	$18,999	$1,389	$145
2010	CHRYSLER **300**	LTD	4DR	WHITE	B5787	~~$20,388~~	$19,999	$389	$183
2010	HYUNDAI **SANTA FE**	LTD	AWD	BLACK	NB5730A	~~$24,388~~	$19,999	$4,389	$218
2011	DODGE **GRAND CARAVAN**	CREW	FWD	BLACK	B5786	~~$20,388~~	$19,999	$389	$183
2010	CHEVROLET **SILVERADO**	LT	4WD	RED	N33681B	~~$21,388~~	$19,999	$1,389	$152
2012	DODGE **GRAND CARAVAN**	SE	FWD	ORANGE	N33900A	~~$22,388~~	$20,999	$1,389	$136
2008	HYUNDAI **VERACRUZ**	GLS	AWD	BLACK	B5751	~~$23,388~~	$21,888	$1,500	$194
2012	HYUNDAI **TUCSON**	GL	AWD	GREY	B5773	~~$23,388~~	$21,999	$1,389	$142
2009	NISSAN **MURANO**	SL	AWD	BLUE	N33876A	~~$24,388~~	$22,999	$1,389	$208
2011	CHEVROLET **EQUINOX**	1LT	AWD	BROWN	B5792	~~$24,388~~	$22,999	$1,389	$148
2010	DODGE **CHALLENGER**	SE	2DR	BLACK	B5725	~~$26,388~~	$23,999	$2,389	$187
2012	FORD **ESCAPE**	XLT	4WD	GREY	B5793	~~$25,388~~	$23,999	$1,389	$155
2011	MITSUBISHI **ECLIPSE**	GTP	2DR	GREY	N32585A	~~$27,388~~	$25,999	$1,389	$166
2011	JEEP **WRANGLER UNLIMITED**	SPORT	4WD	ORANGE	B5756	~~$29,388~~	$27,999	$1,389	$178
2013	HYUNDAI **SANTA FE**	PREM	AWD	BLACK	B5764	~~$30,388~~	$28,999	$1,389	$185
2011	FORD **F150**	LARIAT	$WD	BLACK	B5767	~~$34,388~~	$32,999	$1,389	$239

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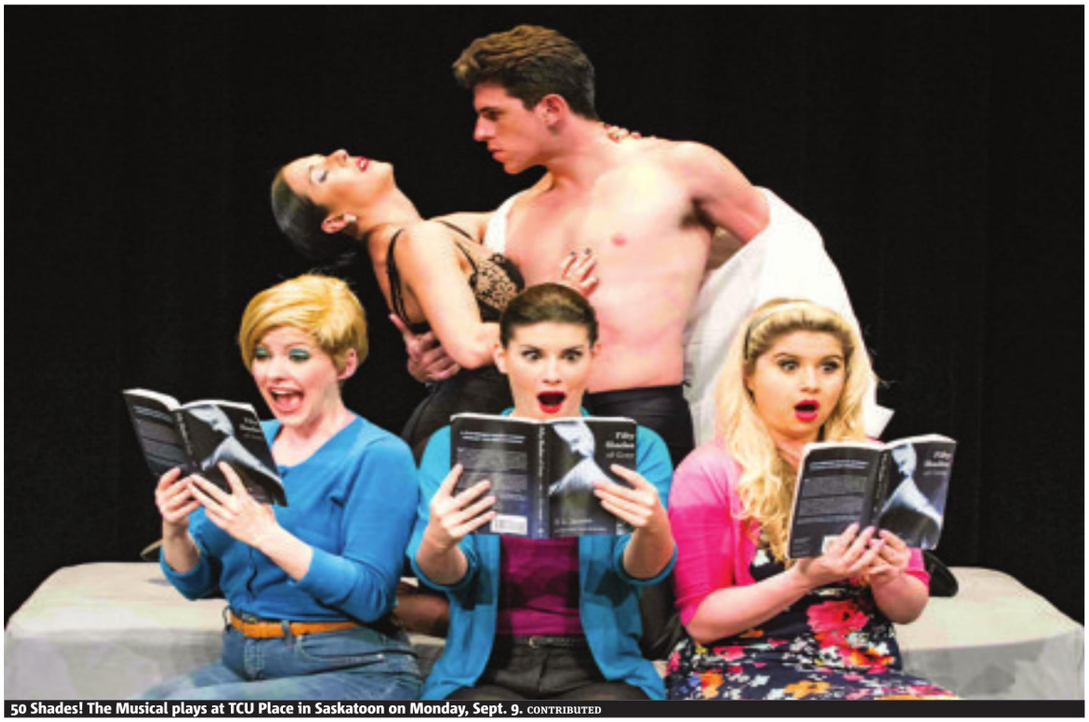
SCENE 2

50 Shades of ... humour

Theatre. E.L. James' wildly popular book of erotic romance comes to the stage in the form of a musical

BACKSTAGE PASS
Simon Hiatt
saskatoon@metronews.ca



50 Shades! The Musical plays at TCU Place in Saskatoon on Monday, Sept. 9. CONTRIBUTED

Along the way to setting the record as the fastest-selling paperback of all time, Fifty Shades of Grey also earned a reputation for the effect it has had on women of a certain age.

Caroline Reade isn't a member of the middle-aged demographic that helped launch the novel to the top of the best-seller list, leading to it being dubbed "mommy porn", and she doesn't consider herself a prude. But the work has had a similar effect on her life and career.

"It's gotten me comfortable representing something sexual on stage, which is unusual for me," Reade said in a telephone interview.

"I've played a lot of wholesome, or girl-next-door roles. This is something a little more racy and it's gotten me to have more fun and kind of open up."

Reade, who was born in London and raised in Spain, and has danced professionally in shows including Evita and The Producers, plays the role of Inner Goddess in 50 Shades! The Musical. The show, which makes stops in Regina and Saskatoon on Sept. 8 and 9, follows the adventures of a book club that decides to read, and tries to interpret, the novel.

For the uninitiated, the source material explicitly details the relationship between a female college student and a businessman as he introduces her to the worlds of bondage and discipline. Reade's character represents Anastasia's subconscious, expressing her excitement and fear through dance.

"There's a lot of italicized lines in the book saying, 'My inner goddess heard that, and now she's belly-dancing in my head.' So they made the inner goddess an actual character in the show."

While the novel is graphic in its depiction of the relationship, Reade says the musical features tongues mainly planted firmly in cheek. It pokes fun at the characters and the writing in the novel, as well as at the reaction it has generated.

"The show is hilarious. I've been with the show since January and I still laugh every single show."

Despite the fact that it takes a somewhat mocking tone toward Fifty Shades of Grey, with musical numbers like There's a Hole Inside of Me and I Don't Make Love, Reade is quick to add that fans of the novel will enjoy it. And she should know.

"I was a huge fan of the books, and at first I thought it would be hard to see it parodied. But the more I got into the show, the more I grew to love it."

Original concept

This week, Fifty Shades of Grey author E.L. James announced that the lead roles in the film adaptation of her novel have been cast. Relative newcomer Dakota Johnson, a daughter of actors Don Johnson and Melanie Griffith, will play Anastasia. Sons of Anarchy star Charlie Hunnam will play Christian Grey , which is due to be released next summer.

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Miley Cyrus. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Miley's motto: Don't think, just twerk

Miley Cyrus finally spoke out about her much-debated MTV Video Music Awards performance with Robin Thicke.

"I don't pay attention to the negative because I've seen this play out so many times," she tells MTV.com. "Madonna's done it. Britney's done it. Every VMA performance, that's what you're looking for. You're wanting to make history."

That being said, even Cyrus is surprised by how much discussion her twerking has prompted.

"People are still talking about it. They're overthinking it," she says. "You're thinking about it more than I thought about it when I did it. Like, I didn't even think about it because that's just me!"

Calvin Klein

Sorry Beckham, we need someone less famous

To hear Calvin Klein tell it, he couldn't use David Beckham in a series of underwear ads in the U.K. recently because the soccer star was too famous.

"They said, 'You can have him for the rest of the world, but you can't have the U.K. because he's too popular,'" Klein explains to Marc Jacobs in a chat for Interview magazine.

Klein ended up going with retired Swedish soccer star Freddie Ljungberg instead.

Twitter

@TomArnold
Is my baby crying in spite of my wife's singing or because of it?

@KChenoweth
Trust me, you can dance. -Wine

@SethMacFarlane
Chilling thought: With all the billions of people on Earth, the odds are very high that right now, someone is watching "Fred Claus."

The Word

There is No Doubt that Stefani is pregnant

MELINDA TAUB
Metro World News

Gwen Stefani, who never seems to age in spirit or looks, is proving her youthfulness yet again by getting pregnant at 43.

In Touch reports that the singer and husband Gavin Rossdale are expecting their third fabulously dressed offspring sometime soon.

A "source" tells the mag the two "couldn't be happier." If true, baby number three joins brothers Kingston, 7, and Zuma, 4.

Last year, the singer told Marie Claire that she and Rossdale tried for a third but it didn't happen.

"I really, really, really wanted one about two years ago," Stefani said.

"And it didn't really work out. So… I feel good with what we've got. Everything works out how it should. You can't plan anything, right? You can try."

Simon Cowell

Those finger paintings are truly awful

Simon Cowell is going to be just fine as a father once girlfriend Laura Silverman gives birth, thank you very much.

"Once I got used to (becoming a father) I did get excited. I think I will be a good dad, so I'm excited," he tells the BBC. "I am good with kids because I like kids. I really do like them and I listen to them."

But that doesn't mean Cowell plans to change any diapers.

"I'm not doing that, 100 per cent absolutely not going near that," he insists.

Jason Statham

Statham's relationship on the rocks

There might be trouble in paradise for Jason Statham and Rosie Huntington-Whiteley, as the action star and the Victoria's Secret model are reportedly taking "a break" from their three-year relationship, according to the Daily Mail.

Sources say their 19-year age difference and "constant" arguing have been taking a toll.

"There is no other person involved. They love each other very much and are not making an announcement because they're still hoping to work things out," a source says.

"But things have not been good; there have been lots of arguments."

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- Strong verbal and written communication skills
- Proven track record in profitable selling

Interested individuals who possess the skills described above are requested to submit their resume and cover letter via email to hr@metronews.ca no later than September 13th, 2013.
PLEASE QUOTE: "Sales Representative - Saskatoon" in the subject line.
All submissions will be treated as confidential.

metro

In the tents or on the town

The prospect of sidling up to Lincoln Center in New York or a cocktail party in Soho wearing your most well-worn clothes may not seem like the best idea. But help is at hand, because as these styling tips we've collected from our street style galleries prove, you don't need an endless designer wardrobe to compete during fashion month.

METRO WORLD NEWS

The Pick'n'Mix

A taxi driver once told Garance Dore that he could spot the girls working in fashion by the fact that nothing they wore matched. Pairing Breton stripes with graphic florals and a denim jacket might be unexpected in the civilian world, but in fashion the two go together like Karl Lagerfeld and Chanel. The irreverence that lies behind such a move is obvious. This tip is all about attitude, so whilst there's a fine line between experimental and, well, ugly, you'll exude confidence by daring to work it.

JIMMY CHOO PUMPS, $695 JIMMYCHOO.COM

ROKSANDA ILINCIC TOP, $815, NET-A-PORTER.COM

ROLAND MOURET STRETCH-DOUBLE CREPE PANTS, $905, NET-A-PORTER.COM

The Sweatshirt Effect

Ever since sports-luxe became a fashion noun, sweatshirts have slowly worked their way into the most stylish of wardrobes. Build up a go-to look by teaming a grown-up version with basic skinny jeans and a high-impact accessory such as a statement necklace or a leopard print bag.

CARVEN SWEATER, $271, MY-WARDROBE.COM

RODARTE SWEATER, BROWNSFASHION.COM, $249

MOTHER OF PEARL SWEATER, $355, NET-A-PORTER.COM

The Fashion Pop

By Milan fashion week the impracticality of those huge Balmain shoulders or bandaged JW Anderson sleeves will be hitting home and cravings for a more comfortable look will start to kick in. This fashionista occupied the middle ground at Italy's fashion week with a fashion pop — that one special item that lifts an entire look. In this case it's her unusual jacket that adds a finished twist to an otherwise laid-back ensemble.

ALEXANDER MCQUEEN BELT, $995, ALEXANDERMCQUEEN.COM

BURBERRY PRORSUM BAG, $1,395

CHARLOTTE OLYMPIA SHOES, $1,200, NET-A-PORTER.COM

The Kit

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Toronto

Jessica

American Apparel employee

What she's wearing
Melissa shoes, Silence and Noise shorts, necklace from Urban Outfitters, L.A.M.B. bag and sunglasses from boutique in New York.

Her inspiration
"I dress based on how I feel. Today I wanted to be on vacation so I left my shirt open. I get inspiration from Anna Dello Russo, Stella McCartney and Marc Jacobs."

THE KIT IS A MULTI-PLATFORM BEAUTY AND FASHION BRAND WHICH INCLUDES AN INTERACTIVE MAGAZINE AND DYNAMIC APP, A WEBSITE, KIT CHAT — AN E-NEWSLETTER PROGRAM — AND A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER SECTION TOO!

One-minute miracle

Lash blast

The Falsies Big Eyes Mascara, $12. Available at mass retailers.

"Beauty junkies obsess when hunting for the perfect mascara. Those who love super-long lashes without being over-the-top should check out Maybelline New York Volum' Express The Falsies Big Eyes Mascara. Its double-ended tube features a fat brush to create dramatic and buildable length on upper lashes, and a tinier brush to define smaller lower ones."

Deborah Fulsang, TheKit.ca

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Not using a ruler can lead to DIY disaster. But there are also some less obvious mistakes people make. ISTOCK IMAGES

Upgrade your home, not your headache

DIY ideas. With proper planning and research, you can ensure your two week renovation doesn't turn into a two year headache

It's common for DIY renovations to begin with enthusiasm and a grand vision only to fall into disorder and frustration.

To learn more about common renovation mistakes and how to reverse the damage, tune in to Rescue Renovation on DIY Network Canada. For now, here are a few tips.

1. Too much to do with too little time
It's important to remember that the larger the project, the bigger the time commitment. Be realistic with how much of your nights, weekends and vacation time you're willing to dedicate before beginning.

2. Not doing it right the first time
Always think long term when planning your renovation. Cutting corners and costs on material and equipment may make sense now, but it will only lead to future costs for repairs and replacements.

3. Measuring once, cutting twice
There's nothing more discouraging than installing kitchen cabinets or a bathroom vanity to discover that your measurements were an inch too long. Measurements must be exact so if you doubt yourself, ask for help before placing your orders.

4. Designing trendy instead of designing smart
Trends come and go but your renovations will be with you for years. While you may want those flashy purple cabinets and to replace your stairs with a slide, your home's value is likely to decline if you decide to sell. Instead, focus on making each area of your home suited for a purpose and use furniture and decor to add your personal style.

5. Overlooking permits
Permits are probably the easiest area to overlook. Many renovations won't require permits, but if you're considering changing your home's structure, you'll need to do some research. Without the proper permit, you can be issued a stop work order and you may not be covered by insurance in case of an accident. Showing potential buyers that your DIY renovations met safety standards can really help raise the value of your home.

SEASON TWO OF RESCUE RENOVATION PREMIERES WITH BACK-TO-BACK EPISODES ON THURSDAY, SEPT. 19 AT 10 P.M. ET\PT

Bellissima! Pasta Primavera minus the pesky carbohydrates

The most delicious and satisfying meals are often the simplest. This flavourful favourite is bound to sweep you away. Make it your very own low-carb staple. Enjoy with a glass of biodynamic red wine, if you wish.

1. Noodles: Slice zucchini in thirds, then spiralize (by using a potato peeler) into thin noodles. Set in colander to drain. (Once zucchini noodles are mixed with sauce, they will release a lot of water, making them soggy. Drain spiralized noodles in a colander, sprinkled with a little salt, before adding sauce. Or pat zucchini between paper towels to pull out some of the excess moisture.)

2. Primavera Sauce: In a blender, blend tomatoes, red pepper, and garlic. Add remainder of sauce ingredients and blend until well mixed. Spoon over noodles and sprinkle with black pepper, basil, and 2 to 3 tablespoons of Pine Nut Parma (optional).

3. Pine Nut Parma: In a food processor, chop nuts to a fine meal (or finely chop by hand). Add salt, onion powder, and yeast and pulse until crumbly. Parma will keep in refrigerator for 1 month. **RECIPES PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM THE SIMPLYRAW KITCHEN BY NATASHA KYSSA**

Ingredients

Noodles
- 6 medium zucchinis, peeled

Primavera Sauce
- 4 medium Roma tomatoes, chopped
- 1 cup (250 ml) chopped red bell peppers
- 2 garlic cloves
- 1 cup (250 ml) sun-dried tomatoes, soaked for 30 minutes
- 2 tbsp pitted Kalamata olives
- 1 tsp lemon juice
- 2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 2 pitted Medjool dates or 1 tbsp maple syrup
- 2 tsp onion powder
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1 tsp Italian seasoning
- 3 tbsp minced fresh basil leaves
- 1 tbsp minced fresh oregano leaves
- 1 tbsp gluten-free tamari
- 1/8 tsp freshly ground black pepper
- cayenne pepper, to taste
- freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 2 tbsp chopped fresh basil, for garnish

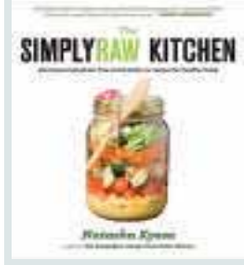
Pine Nut Parma
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) dry pine nuts
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) dry cashews
- 1/8 tsp Himalayan salt
- 1/2 tsp onion powder
- 2 tbsp nutritional yeast (optional)

Pasta Primavera

This recipe serves four. PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM THE SIMPLYRAW KITCHEN BY NATASHA KYSSA

Cookbook of the Week

Raw made easy



Promoting a balanced, flexible diet based on gluten-free and toxin-free plant foods can be easy and delicious. Natasha Kyssa sets out to prove this in her book The SimplyRaw Kitchen.

Through 134 recipes the book features a guide to the lifestyle that's easy to follow and accessible.

Among the delicious raw dishes in The SimplyRaw Kitchen are Spicy Thai Salad, Spinach and Mushroom Dip, Soft Taco Verde, Romanian Cabbage Rolls, Corn and Bean Skillet and more. **METRO**

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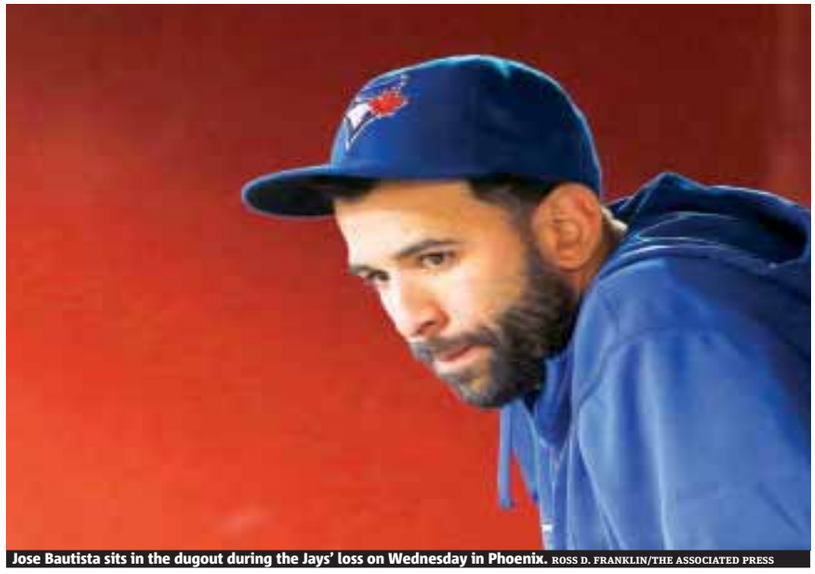
Jays put Bautista on shelf until 2014

MLB. Once again, injury prematurely ends Toronto star's season



Jose Bautista sits in the dugout during the Jays' loss on Wednesday in Phoenix. ROSS D. FRANKLIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Given the dramatic off-season overhaul, it's remarkable how much this miserable Blue Jays season feels just like last year.

The payroll jumped by 50 per cent, attendance is up by nearly 400,000 and the roster — well, mostly the disabled list — includes more former all-stars.

But the Jays are on pace to conclude just a couple of wins ahead of where they finished last year.

Another similarity: Face of the franchise Jose Bautista will once again finish his season on the DL.

Before Wednesday's extra-innings loss to the Arizona Diamondbacks, the Jays announced their slugging right-fielder — who underwent season-ending wrist surgery last August — will be shut down for the remainder of the season to let his leg injury fully heal.

Bautista has been on the disabled list for the past two weeks with nagging hip pain, which has now been diagnosed as a bone bruise in the neck of his left femur.

The leg has been healing well, Bautista said, but hip specialist Dr. Bryan Kelly recommended two more weeks of rest, after which time the 32-year-old all-star would have to work himself back into game shape and would only be able to return to the big leagues in the final week of the season, at the earliest.

"We'll only have a handful of games left, so for those reasons he recommended I get shut down, and myself and the team agreed," Bautista said. "It's not exactly how I wanted to end this season, but ... it's the only way you can heal up. I have no choice but to follow the doctor's recommendations."

The fact that the Jays are not in contention also played into the decision.

"Just a combination of all the factors timing-wise: our team situation, the type of injury and the extent of the injury," Bautista said.

Last July, Bautista, who has 28 home runs this season, suffered an injury to a tendon in his left wrist on the follow-through of a swing. He said he's frustrated by how the past two years have ended.

"I'm one of those players that takes a lot of pride in working out hard and coming in really good shape in the off-season. Unfortunately, I had two impact plays that prevented me from finishing the season strong in the last two years. I'm hoping I have better luck next year."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Moving toward 200

"I'm in striking distance, so I'm going to go out there and try to finish the season strong."

Mark Buehrle, who is fewer than 15 innings from reaching 200 innings pitched after throwing 6 1/3 frames in Wednesday's 4-3 loss to the Diamondbacks

CFL

Bombers eye new pivot prospect

The struggling Winnipeg Blue Bombers signed yet another quarterback Wednesday.

Winnipeg (1-8) signed Levi Brown, who spent last season with the Saskatchewan Roughriders.

Brown was a 2010 seventh-round draft pick of the NFL's Buffalo Bills.

Brown saw action in Buffalo's final regular-season game as a rookie, completing two-of-three passes for 24 yards.

The 26-year-old from Mount Juliet, Tenn., spent the following season on the Bills' practice roster.

He joins Jason Boltus, who signed last month with the Bombers, as well as Max Hall, Justin Goltz and Buck Pierce on Winnipeg's quarterback depth chart. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL

Concussion puts Calvillo on nine-game injured list

The Montreal Alouettes have placed veteran quarterback Anthony Calvillo on the nine-game injured list.

Calvillo suffered a concussion in a 24-21 loss to the Saskatchewan Roughriders on Aug. 17 and hasn't practised or played since.

Montreal is 2-0 in his absence, thanks to rookie Tanner Marsh.

The 23-year-old Texan made a successful debut as a CFL starter Tuesday night, completing 18-of-27 passes for 309 yards and a TD in a 20-9 win in Toronto. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Victoria victoriously reaches semifinals

Victoria Azarenka returns a backhand to Daniela Hantuchova during their quarter-final match at the U.S. Open in New York on Wednesday. ELSA/GETTY IMAGES

Second-seeded Victoria Azarenka moved a win away from a possible showdown in the U.S. Open finals with Serena Williams, topping Daniela Hantuchova 6-2, 6-3 on Wednesday in the quarterfinals.

Azarenka has beaten top-seeded Williams twice this year, including last month in the final of a tuneup tournament in Cincinnati. Last year, Williams topped Azarenka in three sets for her fourth title at Flushing Meadows.

The quarter-final against 48th-ranked Hantuchova wasn't much of a roadblock. Hantuchova, returning to the U.S. Open quarters for the first time since 2002, broke Azarenka's first service game in both sets but gave back both breaks right away.

Standing in the way of a Williams-Azarenka final are fifth-seeded Li Na, who plays Williams in Friday's semi-finals, and 83rd-ranked Flavia Pennetta, who goes against Azarenka.

Earlier in the day on the men's side, Richard Gasquet of France reached his second Grand Slam semifinal, and first since 2007, by eliminating fourth-seeded David Ferrer of Spain 6-3, 6-1, 4-6, 2-6, 6-3.

The eighth-seeded Gasquet was playing in only the second major quarterfinal of his career.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

For more U.S. Open coverage, go to metronews.ca.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
No one in their right mind would knowingly annoy you so likely the reason a colleague is being such a pain today is because they are stupid rather than hateful. Don't hit back.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You like a challenge and that's just as well as the challenges now coming your way will be bigger than anything you have faced before. You will enjoy showing the world what a dynamic Taurus you are.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You may come in for criticism today but no way will you take it lying down. The more others bark at you, the more you will bark back. You may not be the biggest beast on the block but you are the loudest.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Whatever you start over the next 24 hours you must see through to completion, so make sure it is what you really want to be doing. If you are still undecided then forget it.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Today's new moon will encourage you to believe that you can do more in your career and that you can turn your talents into hard cash. Remember: If a job is worth doing it is worth getting well paid for.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Today's new moon in your sign means you are capable of feats that ordinary mortals cannot compete with. But don't do things to impress. Do them to further your ambitions.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
People are not blocking your way deliberately, although it may seem like it. Look at your own state of mind. It will tell you more than what partners or co-workers are up to.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
What you gain will be more important than what you lose today, so don't try to hang on to what is clearly moving away from you. Life is an eternal revolving circle — enjoy the ride.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
If you start something new today, your name will soon be in lights. The new moon means you have the vision, and the confidence, to make a success of whatever you are planning.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
What happens over the next 24 hours will make it clear that a more positive cycle is starting. You don't have to do anything special but you do have to be ready to travel quickly.

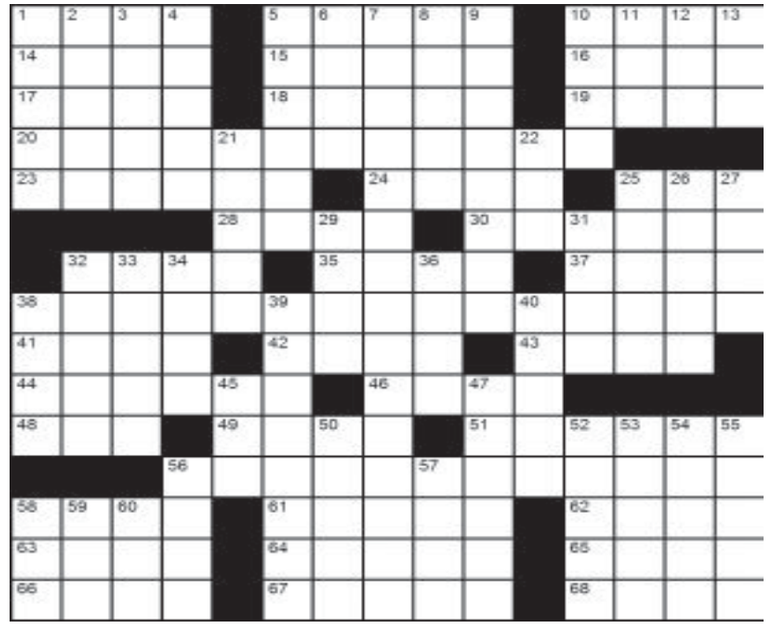
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
If you have financial issues to deal with, now is the ideal time to get serious about them. The new moon will inspire you to knuckle down and find solutions to problems that others have given up on.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You cannot afford to be soft or sentimental. Cosmic activity in your opposite sign demands that you see things, relationships especially, as they are, not as you wish they might be. Be tough with others but more so with yourself. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

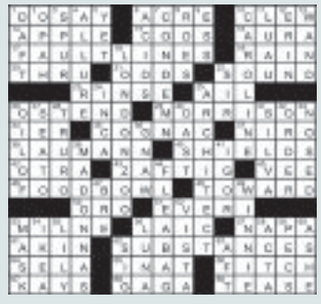
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Annoyed state
5. Daniel __, Robinson Crusoe author
10. Cape Canaveral org.
14. Culture medium
15. Ring-shaped coral island with a lagoon in the middle
16. Amazes
17. Trojan princess in Mozart's opera Idomeneo
18. 'R' of US state RI
19. Slowly advance
20. tiff. = Toronto International __ __
23. Maintain, as an opinion
24. Necklace bit
25. Slalom
28. Dubuque's locale
30. Wobble
32. Used a loom
35. Singer style
37. Annoy
38. Sir Wilfrid Laurier is on them: 3 wds.
41. Roll _ __ (Have one's turn in board game playing)
42. Plane crash investigation agcy.
43. Depend on
44. Movie legend Marilyn (b.1926 - d.1962)
46. __ _ hat for the lady (Be gentlemanly)
48. Meadow mom
49. __ collar
51. Media company acquired by Bell
56. Canada Post business: 2 wds.
58. "Whoopee!"
61. Easily duped
62. Perceived
63. Canadian actor Mr. Cronyn, star of the flick at #57-Down
64. Decorative pin holders
65. Actress, __ Rachel Wood
66. Russian city
67. Convened again
68. Prefix to 'phone'

Down
1. Seaport of Israel
2. Citrus hybrids
3. Gets an F on
4. Set up
5. __ __ be different (Nonconformist's credo)
6. Shakespearean suffixes
7. Where to attend a CFL game: 2 wds.
8. Musical blast from the past
9. "Love in an __" by Aerosmith
10. Painting holder
11. Barley bristle
12. "Hey! Hold on a __!"
13. Volcanic eruption stuff
21. Used a pan
22. Fruit drink
25. Motionless
26. __ green
27. Furies
29. Mr. Disney
31. __ Canal
32. Franz Lehar operetta, The Merry __
33. Sheep-like
34. Sharply turn
36. __ International (Canadian womenswear chain, once)
38. Renown
39. Stand-up's quick joke
40. Enforcer in "The Godfather" (1972), Luca __
45. Chance __ _ lifetime
47. Most faint
50. Uplift
52. Clicker-holder's target: 2 wds.
53. Actor Christopher
54. "He's _ __ Nowhere Man..." - The Beatles
55. Jeff of ELO
56. Docile
57. "A Letter for __" (1946)
58. British Sci-Fi series, "Doctor __"
59. Sing wordlessly
60. First aid team [acronym]

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	8		2			9		
6			9					4
		1		4	6			3
		7		5	4			9
3			7	8		6		
7			6	9		3		
4					1			5
		5			7		2	

Yesterday's Sudoku

1	3	5	4	6	9	7	2	8
9	7	8	3	2	1	5	4	6
6	4	2	5	8	7	3	1	9
5	6	1	8	7	4	9	3	2
7	8	4	2	9	3	6	5	1
2	9	3	1	5	6	4	8	7
8	1	7	9	4	5	2	6	3
4	2	6	7	3	8	1	9	5
3	5	9	6	1	2	8	7	4

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29°/16°
Sunny

Friday
21°/14°
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